

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: FINANCE, PERSONNEL & HIGHER EDUCATION

DATE: SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS CONOVER
SOKOL
SIMPSON
MCDEVITT
BRAYMER

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING SUNY ADIRONDACK:
DR. KRISTINE DUFFY, PRESIDENT
ANN MARIE SOMMA, VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES &
TREASURER
KAREN MOSHER, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO VICE PRESIDENT FOR
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS SEEBER
MERLINO
DICKINSON
GIRARD
FRASIER
BEATY

KEVIN GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
SUPERVISORS LEGGETT
MONTESI
DEB PREHODA, WASHINGTON COUNTY CLERK OF THE BOARD
CHRIS DEBOLT, WASHINGTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
BRIAN CAMPBELL, WASHINGTON COUNTY BUDGET OFFICER
MEMBERS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the September 7, 2016 meeting of the Finance, Personnel and Higher Education Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be heard on the Warren County website using the following link:
<http://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2016/finance/>

Mr. Conover called the meeting of the Finance, Personnel and Higher Education Committee to order at 9:09 a.m. (Please note due to a lack of attendance Chairman Geraghty served to make a quorum of the Committee).

Commencing the Agenda review, Mr. Conover offered privilege of the floor Ann Marie Somma, *Vice President for Administrative Services and Treasurer*, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes*. She advised the first item on the agenda was a request for support of the SUNY Adirondack Capital Project for 2017-2018, which needed to be submitted to SUNY by the end of the month. She proceeded to provide an overview of the SUNY Adirondack Capital Project for 2017 and reviewed a detailed Power Point presentation outlining the request. During the Presentation Committee members posed many questions which were answered by Ms. Somma and Dr. Kristine Duffy, *President of SUNY (State University of New York) Adirondack*; *a copy of the presentation is on file with the minutes*.

Next Ms. Somma updated the Committee members on the NSTEM (*Nursing, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics*) and WORC (*Workforce Readiness Center*) Projects. She said she was pleased to report thus far the Projects remained on time and within the budgeted amount. She stated the bid packages were released on September 2nd and were due on September 29th. She informed that the Groundbreaking ceremony was scheduled for October 27th at 4:00 p.m.

Concluding the Agenda review, Dr. Duffy provided an update on enrollment which had declined by about 4% from the previous year. She apprised that they had planned for this decline since enrollment had decreased in all Community Colleges across the State; however, she noted, enrollment within Computer Science and Math/Science Degree programs had increased.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

Dr. Duffy stated that each year Community Colleges advocated for funding to be allocated within the Governor's Budget for them and yet it was never included. She said their goal was to restore the funding to where it had been before the recession which occurred during 2008-2009 and the funding was drastically decreased. She said although over the past three years the State had gradually increased the amount of funding allocated to them, they were still trying to make up for the years it had declined.

Dr. Duffy informed that there was an initiative within the Governor's Office she felt they should be aware of since it would impact them, as well that concerned reviewing ways to take more control over Community Colleges. She stated her main concern related to the possibility of losing control over what degree programs were offered there. She indicated that they were closely monitoring this and working on a different advocacy strategy which encompassed working with the Governor's Office to ensure the Governor was comfortable providing financial support to Community Colleges.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Simpson and carried unanimously to authorize a resolution in support of the Adirondack Community College Capital Improvement Plan for 2017-18 and the necessary resolution was authorized for the September 16th Board Meeting.

Chairman Geraghty exited the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

The Washington County Community College and Finance Committees made mirroring motions which were approved.

In the absence of a quorum, Mr. Conover declared the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McLenithan, Deputy Clerk of the Board